

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (CLARK, DICK), PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: WRAP-UP ON CODEL CLARK VISIT TO NIGERIA

1. ALTHOUGH SENATOR DICK CLARK TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HIS LAGOS VISIT DECEMBER 8-11 WAS GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY BY FMG WHO SAW HIM AS CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATING NIGERIAN VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ON US POLICY TO NEW UU PRESIDENT. DEPTH AND EXTENT OF FMG INTEREST DEMONSTRATED BY FACT THAT HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO AND SUPREME HEADQUARTERS CHIEF-OF-STAFF YAR-AUDA SPENT THREE HOURS WITH CLARK, AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA ACCEPTED AMBASSADOR'S INVITATION FOR FIRST-EVER DINNER AT A FOREIGN EMBASSY IN LAGOS.

2. CLARK'S CENTRAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO LEARN NIGERIA'S VIEWS OF SOUTHERN AFRICAC SCENE AND OF US POLICY IN THAT AREA, AS WELL AS EXPRESS HIS PERSONAL BELIEF IN IMPORTANCE OF NIGERIA'S ROLE IN AFRICA. HIS INTEREST IN AND PREPARATION FOR CONVERSATIONS ON PURELY BILATERAL MATTERS WERE PERFUNCTORY, WITH RESULT THAT
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HIS MEETINGS WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER AKOBIO AND WITH TRADE PERMSEC ABUBAKAR ALHAJI PRODUCED LITTLE MORE THAN PRO FORMA SHADOW-BOXING.

3. USEFUL MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH UK ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS

AND WITH EEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR MAURICE FOLEY WHO WAS ON BRIEF VISIT TO TIE DOWN DETAILS OF EEC MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROPOSAL FOR FIFTY NIGERIANS IN PETROLEUM AND FIFTY IN IRON AND STEEL. INFORMAL DINNER BY DCM EXPOSED CLARK TO CABINET OFFICE ECONOMIC PERMSEC OYEGUN, AMBASSADORS MUSA AND EDREMODA FROM MEA, AND MOBIL OIL GENERAL MANAGER MILLS.

4. SUBSTANTIVE HIGHLIGHTS OF CLARK'S MEETINGS WITH OBASANJO AND AT MEA HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN SEX SEPTELS (LAGOS 13898, 13944, 14912 14011, 14015, 14053). ONLY MEETING NOT YET REPORTED WAS LIVELY 90- MINUTE EXCHANGE WITH JOURNALISTS AND ACADEMICS AT NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NIIA). CHAIRED BY NIIA DIRECTOR DR. BOLAJI AKINYEMI, THE OFF-THE-RECORD ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION LEFT NO DOUBT THAT SOME NIGERIAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND INTELLECTUALS CONTINUE TO BE SKEPTICAL OF US MOTIVES IN AFRICA. QUESTIONS AND REMARKS FOLLOWED BASIC THEMES OF:
(A) US AFRICAN POLICY IS DETERMINED BY ANTI-SOVIET CAST OF OUR GLOBAL POLICY AND BY ECONOMIC INTERESTS REPRESENTED IN MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES THAT ARE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF HOST COUNTRIES.

(B) RECENT CHANGES IN OUR POLICY ARE BASED ON RECOGNITION THAT WHITE MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE UNSTABLE AND THAT IN ORDER PROTECT OUR ECONOMIC INTERESTS WE NEED REPLACE THEM WITH MODERATE BLACK GOVERNMENTS.

5. CLARK TOLD THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEEDED THE TECHNOLOGY, INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL WHICH NNCS PROVIDED. AT SAME TIME HE CONCEDED THAT MNCS MUST BE PLACED UNDER SOME CONTROLS. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT THE COMPANIES ABIDE BY APPLICABLE LOCAL LAW. US CONGRESS LOOKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTO WAYS TO ASSURE THAT MULTI-NATIONALS ABIDE BY US LAWS. AS FOR US INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, SENATOR SAID HE HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND WHETHER IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FORCE AMERICAN COMPANIES OUT OR TO WORK WITH THEM TO BRING ABOUT DESIRED CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID HIS SUB-COMMITTEE HAD SENT OUT QUESTIONNAIRES TO SOME 300 COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE INTENDED TO ANALYZE RESPONSES WHEN HE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. AT MOMENT, HE SAID, HE HAD OPEN MIND AND COULD BE PERSUADED IN EITHER DIRECTION.

6. AMBASSADOR SANU WAS AT AIRPORT BOTH TO WELCOME SENATOR CLARK AND SEE HIM OFF.
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